

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-42 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-38 and 42 has been indicated as allowable.

Claim 39 has been amended.

**Rejections under 35 U. S. C. 103(a)**

Claims 39-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weston.

Claim 39 has been amended to further recite so positioning an optical blocking element as thereby to inhibit reflections that have been reflected from the sample's surface. Weston does not disclose or teach minimizing-reception of direct surface reflections. Claims 40 and 41 depend from amended claim 39. Applicants consider these dependent claims to be allowable at least by way of their dependency from independent claim 39.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-832-1000. Should a further extension of time be required other than provided for, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account, No. 06-1448.

Respectfully Submitted,



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